



## MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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[Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) or 617-292-5770

The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at:  
[mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers](https://mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers)

or at the Statehouse Archives at : <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



Summer Solstice Stone in New Hampshire – America's Stonehenge

<http://www.stonehengeusa.com/>

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### Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-06-19

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP COVID-19 Information
  - MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
  - MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
2. Revenue Impacts Due to COVID-19
3. Recommendations for LCR Sampling in Closed or Low Flow School Buildings
4. CCR Deadline July 1
5. ASR Deadline July 1
6. Massachusetts Annual Compliance Report (ACR) for 2019
7. Cloth Face Mask
8. Cross Connection Q/A
9. Training Calendar

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## MassDEP COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Sign-up for the state messaging tool called “AlertsMA” which sends real-time notifications of COVID-19 alerts. To subscribe to these real-time notifications text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

Masks and Face Coverings: On May 1, Governor Baker issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public situations when appropriate social distancing measures are not possible. [Order](#) | [Guidance](#)

#### Phase 2 - Re-opening Massachusetts

Until a treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 is available, life will not return to normal. We each have a collective responsibility to ensure that reopening proceeds smoothly and safely. Everyone must follow public health directives and use common sense to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

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### MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
- [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
- [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Drinking Water Operator license Extension Guidance during the public health emergency <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>
- MassDEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information>
- Form to document non-compliance related to COVID-19 <https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency>
- **NEW** Existing Flexibilities under the SDWA <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/existing-flexibilities-under-safe-drinking-water-act>

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### MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is now holding biweekly (every two weeks) Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 30, at 2 PM.** Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov). You may also email questions to [jpederson@masswaterworks.org](mailto:jpederson@masswaterworks.org) by noon on Tuesday.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

By Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

With Computer Audio: <https://zoom.us/j/716180953> (please turn your video off!)

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/anAJCjR7G>

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## Revenue Impacts Due to COVID-19

Some public water systems are looking at lost revenues due to the novel corona virus. These losses as compared to previous years should be well documented not only for your files but also in case any financial assistance becomes available.

MWWA took the initiative to make a guidebook detailing the different ways to capture this data since many systems have different ways to manage their billing. The guide is helpful in showing what kind of data is important to track and record. The guidebook is available for download on the MWWA homepage at [www.masswaterworks.org](http://www.masswaterworks.org).

For additional information:

AWWA/AMWA/Raftelis April 2020 report, click [here](#).

RCAP results of a May 2020 survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Rural Water Systems, click [here](#).

Raftelis and Duke University are conducting a study on impacts to consumption and revenues with utilities across the nation, click [here](#).

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# Recommendations for Lead and Copper (LCR) Sampling in Closed or Low Flow Operating School Buildings.

**This information is also applicable for Schools and Childcare Facilities with Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Programs**

***Why issue recommendations for sampling in school buildings that have been closed during the pandemic or have low occupancy?***

When fewer people are using a building's water system, the water in the building may become stagnant and the quality of the water can deteriorate. Conditions leading to stagnant water can cause a reduction in the residual concentration of disinfectant in the drinking water system (if the water is routinely disinfected), lead to corrosion of plumbing materials and increased concentrations of lead and copper.

***Who should use these recommendations?***

These recommendations are for schools and early education and care facilities (EECF) with voluntary sampling for lead under the LCCA and for public water systems (PWS) that are required under the LCR to sample at least two schools/EECFs during their scheduled monitoring period. The PWS must ensure that the schools/EECFs are sampled while school is in session (two samples in two schools). Therefore, due to the pandemic, sampling of schools/EECFs may be delayed until the facilities are open. PWSs can fulfill the schools/EECFs sampling requirement by adding the schools in the following monitoring period when the schools/EECFs are back to routine operations. School and childcare facilities that are closed should defer sampling until the schools or facilities are re-opened.

If a PWS needs/wants to take samples when a school is closed or operating with low flows, the PWS should provide the Drinking Water Program with its proposed plan for simulating routine school normal operation flows and lead and copper sampling procedures for review and approval before collecting samples. The proposed plan should be sent to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) Subject: Lead in Schools.

See below for an example of what elements should be included in the PWS proposed plan for sampling when a school or childcare facility has low or no flow (closed).

***Example of elements for a PWS proposed plan for sampling a school or childcare facility when a school or childcare facility has low or no flow(closed)***

Lead and copper samples for schools/EECFs should be collected under normal operations after 8-18 hours of stagnation. To simulate normal usage in school buildings that have been closed for long

periods or with low water flows, MassDEP recommends the PWS include the following steps in their proposed sampling plan:

1. Review the monthly water usage (from water bills) for the school/EECF building for the prior 2-3 years during the same period and calculate the average daily water usage for the period/time.
2. Locate all the building's main components. Water intake and hot and cold-water components.
3. Once you have the average water usage of the building, flush the entire system to simulate normal operation by following MassDEP's System Wide Flushing Guidance listed below. Make sure that the amount of water flushed is equal to the calculated average water use of the building for that period/time. Each drinking water outlet should be flushed individually. For example, flushing a toilet will not flush your water fountains.
4. Remember that flushing is performed with the general idea of bringing fresh water to all sections of the building. Water quality indicators such as temperature may be used, where possible, as indicators that fresh water has reached all fixtures within the plumbing system.
5. After flushing, let the water sit stagnant for 8-18 hours.
6. Take lead and copper samples by following MassDEP's sampling guidance located at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sampling-for-lead-and-copper-at-schools-and-childcare-facilities>.

Resources see:

- MassDEP System Wide Flushing: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/download>.
- EPA guidance on school flushing: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/flushing\\_best\\_practices\\_factsheet\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/flushing_best_practices_factsheet_508.pdf).
- MassDEP free technical assistance and testing available for drinking water in schools and childcare facilities: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-in-2020-for-lead-in-school-drinkingwater>.

If you have any questions please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) Subject: Lead in Schools.

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## CCR Deadline is July 1

Reminder for community systems that your Consumer Confidence Report is due on July 1, 2020 - a little more than one week away. You should email them to [Program.director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.director-DWP@mass.gov). Please realize that it may now actually be too late to mail in hardcopies. If you mail them now it is a good chance you will miss the July 1 deadline. **PLEASE USE EMAIL.** It is faster and you get a return receipt of delivery as proof of delivery.

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## ASR Deadline is July 1



Reminder for all public water systems: The deadline for submitting the 2019 Annual Statistical Report has been extended to July 1, 2020. That is a little more than a week to get your report signed and sent in.

If you need any last-minute help to complete your ASR contact [Andrew.Durham@Mass.gov](mailto:Andrew.Durham@Mass.gov) or [Tio.Yano@Mass.gov](mailto:Tio.Yano@Mass.gov).

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## Massachusetts ACR Report

Massachusetts Annual Compliance Report (ACR) for 2019 is now available. The ACR is broken down into four parts; state summary, detail by chemical, detail by rule, and detail by PWS. The detail by PWS lists all PWSs with one or more MCL, MRDL, or TT violations (note that the standard SDWIS ACR details report also includes PWSs that only incurred monitoring violations.)

The full ACR is posted on the web at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2019-safe-drinking-water-act-annual-compliance-report/download>

The ACR Cover Letter can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2019-safe-drinking-water-act-annual-compliance-report-cover-letter/download>

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## Cloth Face Masks

The distribution of the free cloth face masks to water systems has been going smoothly.

In this photo, Michael Gorenstein, Project Manager Hyannis Water, is distributing masks to Tom Rooney, Water Superintendent Barnstable Fire District Water Department. Round two of distribution is almost complete!



Photos  
by Karla  
Sangrey

Face masks.... 500 masks per box, loading-up, and ready to go!

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## More Cross Connection Q&A

**What further guidance can MassDEP provide on Cross Connection Inspections (Backflow Preventers Tests and Cross Connection Surveys)?**

**Answer:** Public water systems are usually required to test reduced pressure backflow preventers twice a year. MassDEP suggests that public water systems evaluate their Cross-Connection Control Program Plans (CCCCP) at this time. If necessary public water systems can make updates to their CCCC to reflect any temporary changes on specific components of the program because of the COVID restrictions, such as rescheduling any cross connection surveys or tests to later in the year, consistent with the state regulations. Please be aware that MassDEP may update its guidance later this year.

Public water systems may choose to temporarily conduct cross connection surveys:

- only on new facilities
- facilities that went through a major remodeling/upgrades and
- facilities that have had an emergency that required the replacement of equipment or changes on the domestic plumbing system.

Public water systems could temporarily alter testing frequencies by:

- suspending tests of double check valve assemblies (DCVAs) located on domestic water lines and fire protection systems in 2020 and
- only testing RPBPs located on fire protection systems during the second half of 2020.

All cross connection surveys or testing must be conducted using appropriate notifications and personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the CDC

guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> .

Please also refer to FAQ Question (Inspections/Repairs1) at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-covid-19-faqs-for-public-water-suppliers-0/download> .

If you have any questions please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) Subject: Cross Connection Control.

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## Training Calendar

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

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MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.

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